and there over the valleys, the river winding into divers branches,
the plain adjoining without bush or stubble, all fair green grass,
the ground hard sand, easy to march on either for horse or foot,
the deer crossing in e\ ery path, the birds towards the evening
singing on every tree with a thousand several tunes, cranes and
herons of white, crimson, and carnation, perching in the river's
side, the air fresh with a gentle easterly wind, and every stone
that we stooped to take up promised either gold or silver by his
complexion.[3]

But now the fury of the nver Orenoque began daily to threaten
them with dangers on their return, for no half day passed but
the river began to rage and overflow very fearfully, and the
rams came down in terrible showers, and gusts in great abund-
ance Having for well near a month passed westward farther
and farther from their ships, at length they turned eastward
Returning therefore to the country of Topiawan, Sir Walter
again had conference with the old man, who told him that four
days* journey from his town was Macureguarai, and that those
were the next and nearest subjects of Inga and of the Epuremi,
and the first town of apparelled and rich people, and that all
those plates of gold which were earned to other nations came
from die Macureguarai and were there made, but that those of
the land within were far finer, and fashioned after the images
of men, beasts, birds and fishes The old King would indeed
have had Sir Walter stay and attempt this people, but he,
knowing that Berreo did daily expect a succour out of Spam and
from Granada, was unwilling to attempt the enterprise at that
season but promised to return next year

Of marvels in those parts, noteth that in the

parts south of
the nver there be a race of Amazons, and they accompany with
men but for one month in the year, and at that time all the
Kings of the borders assemble and the Queens of the Amazons,
and, after the Queens have chosen, the rest cast lots for their
valentines If they conceive and be delivered of a son, they
return him to the father , if of a daughter, they nourish it and
retain it, and as many as have daughters send a present to the
begetters. At the port of Morequito one gave him a beast
called by the Spaniards' armadilla/ which seemeth to be barred
all over with small plates somewhat like to a rhinoceros, with a